

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07404 102314Z

65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3399

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: POLITICIANS SEARCH FOR WAY TO OUST STUBBORN MRS. PERON

REF: BA-7316

1. AS OF 1200 NOV 10 MRS. PERON REMAINED IN HOSPITAL, THOUGH HER DOCTOR HAS ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING SHE RESPONDING SATISFACTORILY AND THAT AFTER A FEW MORE TESTS SHE CAN RETURN HOME. SHE CONTINUES TO ISOLATE HERSELF, ADMITTING ONLY PRIVATE SEC JULIO GONZALEZ AND PERSONAL PHYSICIAN. OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED BY FACT THAT SHE IS NO LONGER CONSULTING THEM, OR EVEN SEEING THEM, CABINET MINISTERS MET ON NOV 6 AND SENT MRS. PERON JOINT REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE. SO FAR, SHE HAS NOT EVEN REPLIED.

2. PRESSURES CONTINUE TO BUILD AGAINST HER. SAN JUAN BLOQUISTAS, JOINED BY FEDERALISTAS, HAVE PRESENTED IMPEACHMENT MOTION IN CONGRESS. HORACIO THEDY'S PDP, WHO LIKE BLOQUISTAS HAVE ONLY THREE DEPUTIES IN CHAMBER, HAVE ALSO ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH IMPEACHMENT MOTION. UCR, WHICH HAS NO GREAT REGARD FOR BLOQUISTAS, IS MORE LIKELY TO PRESENT ITS OWN MOTION THAN ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THAT OF SMALLER PARTY. RESULT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE THE SAME. STATEMENT ISSUED BY UCR SENATORS NOV 7, MEANWHILE, HARSHLY CENSURES PRESIDENT.

3. IN ADDITION TO UCR, VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER PARTIES, WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 07404 102314Z

EXCEPTION OF PERONIST VERTICALISTAS, HAVE EITHER ISSUED PUBLIC

STATEMENTS CENSURING PERON OR HAVE TAKEN STAND AGAINST HER IN CONGRESS. ALL ALLIES IN FREJULI--FRONDIZI'S MID, ALLENDE'S PPC, AND POPULAR CONSERVATIVES--HAVE DEFECTED IN FACT IF NOT OFFICIALLY AND ARE READY TO VOTE FOR IMPEACHMENT. IF JOINED BY AS MANY AS TWENTY OF THE PERONIST ANITIVERTICALISTAS IN CHAMER, A MAJORITY COULD BE PUT TOGETHER TO VOTE TO BEGIN IMPEACHMENT PROCESS. EXPULSION OF CALABRO (SEE SEPTTEL) PRACTICALLY ASSURES AS MANY AS 20 DEFECTIONS (AND THUS WAS SERIOUS TACTICAL MISTAKE ON MRS. PERON'S PART). MEANWHILE, INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPTION CONTINUES TO PICK UP MOMENTUM. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT PEDRO ELADIO VAZQUEZ, AND POSSIBLY EVEN JULIO GONZALEZ MY BE ARRESTED BY FEDERAL JUDGE.

4. MRS. PERON IS THUS BOXED IN AND IN UNTENABLE POSITION. BUT SHE STILL REFUSES TO RESIGN. ISOLATED AND DEPENDENT UPON SMALL COTERIE OF ADVISORS SUCH AS GONZALEZ AND SOCIAL WELFARE MIN DEMARCO, SHE MAY SIMPLY IGNORE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIGNATION. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES INDICATE MILITARY HAVE PUT DIVILIAN LEADERS ON NOTICE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT EXPECT ARMED FORCES TO SOLVE PROBLEMS FOR THEM. IF THEY WANT MRS. PERON REMOVED, THEY WILL TO DO IT THEMSELVES. OTHERWISE, MILITARY WILL SIMPLY WAIT UNTIL GOVT FAILS AND COLLAPES OF ITS OWN INEPTITUDE. THEN THEY WILL TAKE POWER, BUT NOT WITH IDEA OF HANDING IT BACK TO CIVILIANS FOR A VERY LONG TIME. PARTIES CAN ALMOST BE PLOTTED ON POLITICAL SPECTRUM BY NATURE OF THEIR RESPONSE TO MILITARY POSITION. MORE CONSERVATIVE GROUPS, SUCH AS MOVIMIENTO RENOVADOR CONSERVADOR, HAVE RUSHED INTO PRINT WITH STATEMENTS SAYING IT ALREADY CLEAR GOVT HAS FAILED (E.E. THEY WANT MILITARY TO TAKE OVER IMMEDIATELY). UCR AND OTHER CENTER-LEFT PARTIES, HOWEVER, ARE TRYING TO DEVISE SOME MEANS OF REMOVING HER QUICKLY AND LEGALLY (E.E. AHEAD OF THE MILITARY).

5. WITH HER REMOVAL IN MIND, PERHAPS THE MOST INTRIGUING DEVELOPMENT OF PAST FEW DAYS WAS MEETING NOV 7 BETWEEN ROBLEDO AND LEADERS OF VARIOUS BLOCS IN SENATE. MEETING WAS HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND NONE WOULD DIVULGE TOPIC--OR TOPICS--DISCUSSED. UCR'S CARLOS PERETTE, HOWEVER, WHO HAD JUST LAMBASTED MRS. PERON AS UNFIT TO HOLD OFFICE, PRAISED ROBLEDO'S "REPORT" AS VERY POSITIVE. SPECULATION IS THAT "REPORT" CONSISTED OF DISCUSSION SCENARIO FOR MRS. PERON'S DEPARTURE. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 07404 102314Z

6. SOME SOURCES HAVE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF MRS. PERON AGAIN TAKING LEAVE--BEGINNING WITH OFFICIAL MISSION TO SPAIN TO ATTEND FRANCO'S FUNERAL. THIS COULD BE, BUT IT STRIKES EMBASSY THAT UNLESS IT CLEAR THAT LEAVE OF ABSENCE WOULD BE "PROLONGED"--I.E. THAT SHE WOULD NOT REASSUME PRESIDENCY--THIS SOLUTION WOULD LEAVE TOO MANY LOOSE ENDS.

7. COMMENT: SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED. UNDENIABLE FACT IS THAT MRS. PERON STANDS REPUDIATED BY PUBLIC OPINION, ISOLATED AND VIRTUALLY INCOMMUNICADO. FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THERE IS NO GOVT AT THE TOP. HOW CIVILIAN/CONSTITUTIONALIST FORCES WILL GET RID OF HER REMAINS UNCLEAR. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THEY MUST FIND A WAY, AND FIND IT SOON, OR SEE MILITARY TAKE OVER. VANOLI OF UCR(WHO JUST RETURNED FROM US) TELLS US THAT WHILE HE HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN DETAIL WITH BALBIN, IN SHORT ALK ON SUNDAY LATTER EXUDED CONFIDENCE THAT SOLUTION WOULD EMERGE THIS WEEK. EVERYONE HOPES SO, BUT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN HE WISH TO GIVE BIRTH TO THE DEED.
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